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PRESS RELEASE

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More Than 200 Teenagers Attend Youth Summit

Sponsored by U.S. Attorney's Office

- U.S. Attorney Machen Urges Them to Help Stop Violence -

WASHINGTON - More than 200 teenagers turned out today for an anti-violence summit, hearing a range of speakers, including U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., talk about the need to work together with law enforcement to stop crime in their communities.

The free program took place at the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), 1901 Mississippi Avenue SE. It featured panel discussions on youth violence, talks by victims, ex-offenders and a medical professional, special appearances by National Football League players and other guests, a video, and a step show and Hip-Hop performance.

"We're here because we have an epidemic of youth violence in our community," U.S. Attorney Machen told the teenagers in opening the event. He urged them to help stop the cycle of violence by making good choices and working with law enforcement in fighting crime.

"All of you have the talent to succeed," U.S. Attorney Machen told the youths. "We want you to think before you act. Realize that actions have consequences."

The goal of the summit was to "deal with the real" and address the senseless violence surrounding youth. The program was presented with assistance from numerous partners, including the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and Washington Hospital Center. U.S. Attorney Machen and Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney Vincent H. Cohen Jr. were joined by other law enforcement officials, along with clergy members and other community leaders.

The youth summit is one in a series of community events sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, including town hall meetings, crime prevention presentations, and various outreach programs for people of all ages.

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